

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Office of Fire and Aviation
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

January 18, 2002

In Reply Refer To:
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Information Bulletin No. OF&A 2002-025

To: State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Reimbursement for Section 7 Consultation, Coordination, Planning and Review Services for Fuels Treatment Projects

The Bureau of Land Management, on behalf of the Department of the Interior (DOI) and its Wildland Fire Management Agencies, has entered into Interagency Agreements with both the Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The purpose of the agreements is to obtain consultation, coordination, planning, and review services in support of Wildland Fuels Management projects for fiscal years 2001 and 2002.

The F&WS and NMFS have agreed to provide these needed services per the requirements of Section 7 (50 CFR 402) of the Endangered Species Act. The Federal land management agencies within the DOI have agreed to reimburse both F&WS and NMFS for the additional consultation, coordination, planning, and review needs caused by the increased number of planned fuels treatment projects. All aspects of Section 7(a)(2) consultation between NMFS and F&WS will be governed by the interagency consultations regulations at 50 CFR Part 402 and the *Endangered Species Consultation Handbook*.

Billings for Section 7 consultations for all hazard fuels treatments will be processed by the National Office of Fire and Aviation through Intra-Governmental Payment and Collection (IPAC). Field Offices do not need to generate a fund code or obligate funds for their consultations. Field Offices should keep track of the following:

1. The number of consultations performed by NMFS and/or F&WS.
2. A record of whether informal consultations were completed within 30 days and formal consultations within 90 days.

This information may be requested by the National Office of Fire and Aviation if there are questions concerning bills submitted by NMFS and F&WS. The Annual Operating Plan with NMFS is being updated and an Annual Operating Plan is being developed with F&WS. Any further guidance developed from the Annual Operating Plans will be transmitted by IB to the State Directors.

If you have any questions on this IB or need agreement information or copies, please contact Office of Fire and Aviation personnel as follows: Carl Gossard, Smoke Management Specialist, at 208-387-5419, or Sherry Garey, Grants and Agreements Specialist, at 208-387-5360.

Signed by:
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